

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /099 W
-----065067 041048Z /14

R 041010Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0084
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALLAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0038

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: BIKO FAMILY SENDS LETTERS OF DEMAND

REF: PRETORIA 7066

1. PRESS OF JAN 4 REPORTS THAT THE BIKO FAMILY HAS SERVED LETTERS OF DEMAND ON THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, GENERAL PRINSLOO, AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. VAN DER MERWE, FOR A TOTAL OF RAND 178,000 FOR DAMAGES ARISING FROM THE DEATH OF STEVE BIKO. THE CLAIMES ARE IN THE NAME OF BIKO'S WIFE WHO IS CLAIMING RAND 148,000 IN LOSS OF SUPPORT FOR HERSELF AND THE TWO CHIDREN, AND HIS MOTHER, WHO IS CLAIMING RAND 30,000 IN LOSS OF SUPPORT. THE REASONS GIVEN BY THE FAMILY FOR THE ACTION ARE THAT A) AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, BIKO WAS SOLE SUPPORT OF HIS WIFE, CHILDREN AND MOTHER; B) BIKO DIED OF INJURIES INFLICTED BY "ONE OR OTHER" OF THE POLICE OFFICERS IN WHOSE CUSTODY HE WAS; C) THAT THE SECURITY
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POLICE "WILLFULLY OR NEGLIGENTLY" MISLED THE DOCTORS ATTENDING BIKO; AND D) THAT THE TWO DISTRICT SURGEONS "HAD NEGLECTED OR FAILED TO DIAGNOSE THAT (BIKO) HAD SUSTAINED A SERIOUS HEAD INJURY OR INJURIES AND HAD FAILED TO TREAT HIM IN A MANNER WHICH MAY HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE."

2. THE PRESS ACCOUNTS SAY THAT IF THE DEMANDS OF THE LETTERS

ARE NOT MET WITHIN A MONTH, SUIT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST
VAN DER MERWE AND THE MINISTER OF POLICE, JIMMY KRUGER.
POLICE COMMISSIONER PRINSLOO IS APPARENTLY CITED IN THE LETTERS
OF DEMAND IN HIS ROLE AS OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGIONAL
SECURITY DETACHMENT, BUT KRUGER WOULD BE THE OBJECT OF THE
SUIT. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR00038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780006-0769
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780199/aaaadfjz.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3db8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 7066
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3827496
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIKO FAMILY SENDS LETTERS OF DEMAND
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (BIKO, STEPHEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3db8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014